

for which Christ's Church exists—the work of missions.

The main trouble is, that where responsibility is divided among a great number of persons, especially if they are scattered over a wide territory, it is very hard to get them to feel their individual share of the work.

II.

Now comes another and very serious matter closely connected with the above. It deserves full discussion in the Church papers, and those who go to the next Assembly should inform themselves in regard to it, in order to be able to remedy whatever needs rectifying.

Our Church went well beyond the four million dollars asked of it for Benevolences, and the serious question is, Who got that money? Foreign Missions is in the deepest financial hole it has been in, as far back as I can remember. Home Missions got far less than the meagre and altogether inadequate percentage assigned to it by the Assembly. Ministerial Relief does not seem to have been the beneficiary, else why that monumental campaign for the Graham Building? Schools and colleges will hardly lay claim to it, else why the great efforts to raise extra millions for their special needs? Nor are our orphanages appealing to us to stop sending them money—no, not yet. And so the question recurs, who got the more than four million dollars given for Benevolences?

The question does not involve the slightest suspicion of anything morally wrong anywhere, but wrong methods may have been used from a business point of view. Individual churches may have used large amounts for their individual benevolences, instead of turning the funds into the channels suggested by the Assembly. It almost seems that the more laymen's conferences we have and the more money our Progressive Program secures, the less progress we make in keeping our mission treasuries out of debt.

Brethren, please agitate the matter; for it is of vast importance, and the next Assembly will soon be here.

III.

1. Why should not a brief, but clear accounting be made to the Church in the Church papers? E. g., so much received for Benevolences. Foreign Missions got so much, spending it as follows: Africa, \$——; Brazil, \$——, and so on. Home Missions got so much, tabulated under its main departments. Maybe this is in the Assembly's Minutes; but how many can get the information that way?

2. In the "Narratives" of the Sessions, instead of the distasteful question, "What plans have you for doing more for your Saviour in the future?" I suggest this: "Did you send to the various Church causes the percentages recommended by the Assembly? If not, give your percentages." This is something tangible and definite.

Woodrow Wilson said that the greatest of all reformers is Discussion.

Why should men go to church is a question that is being asked by a good many people. Many reasons are given, some good and some worthless. But the greatest of all reasons is often overlooked. The reason why men should go to church is just the same as that which applies to women. The real reason for going to church is that it is the place to worship God. This should be the point emphasized always. If it were always impressed upon people that the real reason for going to church is not to hear preaching or singing, but to worship.

Our Boys and Girls

THE INVISIBLE GUEST.

By Eliza Orne White.

"We'll all have to give up something this winter," said Mrs. Marsh, "and send the money to the hungry little children abroad. I am going without a new suit," and she looked down at her shabby black dress. "Tony, what are you going without?"

Tony looked thoughtful. He was a small boy, even smaller than his twin sister Laura, but he seemed older, for ever since his father was killed over seas he had been the man of the family.

"I'll give up my Christmas money," Tony said.

"You are not going to give all of your Christmas money, are you?" asked Laura.

"Yes, all of it," he replied, with a little sigh. "It won't go very far."

"Well, I'm not going to give all of mine. I'm going to save enough to buy a sweater for my precious Geraldine," for Laura adored her newest doll.

Just then their pretty Aunt Laura came downstairs in an evening gown. She was going to a great dinner in Boston for the benefit of the starving children abroad and there was to be a high vacant chair on the platform to represent a hungry little child.

"I am so sorry you are not going, too," she said to her sister-in-law, who was helping her into her wraps.

But Mrs. Marsh was not sorry, she was going to have her own good time at home; for the invisible guest could be at every table in the land.

When the dining-room door was opened, the children saw the high chair that Tony had sat in when he was a tiny child at the head of the table for the invisible guest, and the high chair that Laura had sat in next to her own place, and in it sat her newest doll!

"Oh, you set a place for Geraldine, how nice!" exclaimed Laura.

They ate their supper without saying very much, while the candle burned lower and lower at the place of the invisible guest. Tony was thinking of the great and good man who planned the dinner in Boston, and longed with all his ardent young soul to grow up brave and true, so he could do some big work that would count. Laura thought how glad she was that she lived where food and coal were plentiful. She had never felt so thankful for her blessings before; and Mrs. Marsh was thinking of her husband, who had gone across the sea to lay down his life that other nations might be free, and there might be peace in the world. Freedom had not come as yet, nor peace to all, but perhaps when her children grew up, something of this dream might come true.

Then she told them over again of the work for the starving children and added, "We'll send our contributions tomorrow."

The last spoonful of stew was eaten and the last drop of cocoa drunk: even Geraldine's portion was gone, for Laura drank Geraldine's cocoa, and gave Tony the doll's share of stew, "Because I am not so awfully fond of stew as you are," she said, then glancing at her mother, she added, "I am so glad you let Geraldine come to the table."

"I thought it might be a good lesson for her, too," said Mrs. Marsh.

"It is," said Laura with a sigh. "She has decided to give up having a sweater."—Selected.

THREE GATES.

If you are tempted to reveal
A tale some one to you has told
About another, make it pass,
Before you speak, three gates of gold.

These narrow gates—First, "Is it true?"
Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest—"Is it kind?"

And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you can tell the tale nor fear
What the result of speech may be.

BIBLE VERSES.

Selected by Gladys Wright.

Go ye therefore into the highways and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. St. Matthew 22:9.

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God believe also in Me. St. John 14:1.

And there was a widow in the city and she came unto Him, saying, 'Avenge me of mine adversary.' St. Luke 18:3.

David therefore himself calleth Him Lord; and whence is he then His son? And the common people heard him gladly. St. Mark 12:37.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. St. Matthew 5:14.

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. St. John 4:35.

What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness and go after that which is lost, until he find it. St. Luke 15:4.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven for so persecuted they, the prophets which were before you. St. Matthew 5:12.

I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, Father I have sinned against heaven and before thee. St. Luke 15:18.

Grace be with you, mercy and peace from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ Son of the Father in truth and love. 2 John 1:3.

Harden not your hearts as in the provocation in the day of temptation in the wilderness. Hebrews 3:8.

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. Psalm 23:1.

J. M. J., JR.

Dear Presbyterian: I am sending my initials. They are J. M. J., Jr. I had to look a long time to find them, but I found them. They are James, the first chapter and first verse; James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ to the twelve tribes, which are scattered abroad, greeting. Another is Proverbs, the third chapter and first verse. My son, forget not my law, but let thy heart keep my commandments. Another is, Matthew, the fourth chapter and seventh verse, Jesus said unto him, It is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Another is, Matthew, the seventh chapter and first verse, Judge not, that ye be not judged. And the last is, Romans, the twelfth chapter and fifteenth verse, Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Jas. M. Janney, Jr.